

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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O 081030Z JUN 78
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JCS WASHDC
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CINCPACREPPH SUBIC BAY RP
13THAF CLARK AB RP

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 MANILA 9620

EXDIS

MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, RP, US
SUBJ: MARCOS COMMENTS ON MILITARY-TO-MILITARY
DISCUSSIONS

REF: CINCPACREPPHIL 070900Z JUN 78

1. SUMMARY: AS PRIORITY MATTER IN MILITARY-TO-MILITARY TALKS, MARCOS WANTS TO KNOW OUR ATTITUDE ON USE OF BASE LANDS, NOT REQUIRED BY USG, FOR INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL PURPOSES. IT WAS CLEAR HE IS REFERRING TO CONCEPTS IN MELCHOR PLAN OF 1975 MARCOS REAFFIRMED HE REMAINS EAGER TO MOVE DISCUSSIONS ALONG. HE WAS PLEASED WITH ADMIRAL WEISNER'S RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENT ABOUT STRATEGIC VALUE OF THE BASES. HE ASKED OUR POSITION ON MOBILE RADAR TO SUPPORT THE F-8S NOW BEING ACQUIRED. END SUMMARY.

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2. MARCOS, IN PRIVATE MEETING FOLLOWING MY CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION, RAISED SUBJECT OF RESUMED MILITARY-TO-MILITARY TALKS. PRESIDENT SAID THAT HE HAD INSTRUCTED HIS REPRESENTATIVES TO DEAL WITH THE PROPOSALS THE AMERICAN SIDE HAD TABLED, SPECIFICALLY OUR REQUIREMENTS FOR FUTURE MILITARY FACILITIES. HE NOTED THAT THE U.S. ASKED TO

RETAIN AT CLARK SOMETHING ON THE ORDER OF 4500 HECTARES IN THE BUILT-UP AREA AS WELL AS THE COMMUNICATIONS COMPLEX OUTSIDE OF THAT AREA (AT CAMP O'DONNELL) AND TO CONTINUE TO ADMINISTER THE CROW VALLEY RANGE. HE ACKNOWLEDGED OTHER USAF REQUIREMENTS AT BAGUIO AND THE RADAR AT WALLACE.

3. HE HAS DIRECTED ESPINO TO MEET WITH HIS AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS AND IN THE FIRST INSTANCE TO FIND OUT HOW THE U.S. FEELS ABOUT THE FUTURE UTILIZATION OF BASE LANDS RETURNED TO THE PHILIPPINES FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT EITHER BY AMERICAN OR FILIPINO FIRMS OR PERHAPS UNDER JOINT COMMERCIAL ARRANGEMENTS. TO WHAT EXTENT FOR EXAMPLE MIGHT AN INDUSTRIAL GROUP HAVE USE OF THE RUNWAYS IN CLARK AS IS THE CASE, HE UNDERSTOOD, ON U.S. MILITARY RUNWAYS IN BELGIUM?

4. THIS IDEA ABOUT PUTTING THE RETURNED AREAS TO INDUSTRIAL USE, MARCOS RECALLED, HAD BEEN PART OF THE ORIGINAL GOP PROPOSAL BUT NOT TALKED ABOUT RECENTLY. SOME AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS HAD INDICATED TO THE GOP THEIR INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING ENTERPRISES TO SUPPLEMENT (COMMENT: I BELIEVE FROM THE CONTEXT HE MEANT "TO HELP MEET") THE MILITARY REQUIREMENTS OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS. MARCOS SAID, "BEFORE WE GO FURTHER I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AN ANSWER ON THIS POINT."

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5. THERE IS A SMILAR QUESTION ON SUBIC, MARCOS CONTINUED, WHERE KAWASAKI IS ALREADY CONSTRUCTING A SHIPYARD NEAR THE BASE. DID WE HAVE ANY OBJECTIONS TO SEEING SUCH INDUSTRIES CONSTRUCTED ON THE LAND WHICH WILL BE RESTORED TO THE PHILIPPINES? HE NOTED ONE SUCH AREA HE HAD IN MIND WAS THE SUBIC TRAINING AREA ACROSS THE BAY.

6. THE FOREGOING WOULD REQUIRE DISCUSSIONS, THE PRESIDENT NOTED, OF WHAT THE CONCEPT "FOR MILITARY USE" REALLY MEANT. HE RECOGNIZED THAT SUCH DISCUSSION WOULD BE NEEDED ON OTHER ISSUES SUCH AS THE SAN MIGUEL FACILITY, THE SUBIC WATERSHEAD, SUBIC WATERS, GRANDE ISLAND, ETC. THE GOP PROPOSAL FOR JOINT ADMINISTRATION OF THE WATERSHED WOULD INVOLVE THE SYMBOLIC GESTUE OF TRANSFERRING THE WATERSHED TO PHILIPPINE SOVEREIGNTY THEN PLACING IT UNDER AJOINT ADMINISTRATION. "WE", THE PRESIDENT CONCLUDED, "ARE AS EAGER AS YOU ARE TO MOVE THESE DISCUSSIONS ALONG."

7. I SAID THAT I WELCOMED HIS ASSURANCE THAT THE GOP

WAS READY TO MOVE INTO THESE DETAILED DISCUSSIONS. I KNEW THAT OUR OFFICERS WERE READY AND LOOKING FORWARD TO THEIR JUNE 9 MEETING WITH ESPINO. I NOTED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD NOT MENTIONED THE ROLE OF THE BASE COMMANDERS. MARCOS REPLIED THAT HE HAD NOT INTENDED TO OVERLOOK THAT SUBJECT AS NEEDING DISCUSSION. AGAIN HE WISHED TO ASSURE US THAT THE GOP WOULD DO NOTHING TO WEAKEN WHAT HE TERMED "YOUR INTEGRITY OF COMMANDM."

8. I SAID THAT IT HAD AS A RESULT OF MY BRIEFINGS IN WASHINGTON AND DISCUSSIONS IN CINCPAC ARRIVED IN THE PHILIPPINES OPTIMISTIC CONCERNING THE RESOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES AFFECTING THE BASES. I BELIEVED OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS SHARED A COMMON APPRECIATION OF THE STRATEGIC
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VALUE OF THESE BASES IN ASSURING REGIONAL STABILITY. IF BOTH OUR COUNTRIES KEEP THIS ISSUE IN CLEAR PERSPECTIVE IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE ISSUES IN DISPUTE COULD BE RESOLVED. MARCOS SAID HE ASSUMED I WAS AWARE THAT HE HAD OVERRULED HIS CABINET AND IN PARTICULAR ENRILE IN DISCUSSING THE MUTUAL BENEFIT OF THE BASES IN HIS JOINT STATEMENT WITH VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE. MARCOS THEN SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN PLEASED WITH ADMIRAL WEISNER'S RECENT STATEMENT ABOUT THE STRATEGIC VALUE OF THE PHILIPPINE BASES.

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EXDIS

9. RADAR. MARCOS SAID HE WOULD PARTICULARLY APPRECIATE LEARNING OUR POSITION CONCERNING RADAR TO SUPPORT THE 25 F-8S WHICH THE PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE WOULD SHORTLY BE RECEIVING. HE HAD ASSUMED WE WOULD EITHER FURNISH THIS RADAR OR EXTEND CREDIT FACILITIES FOR ITS PURCHASE. WITHOUT NEW MOBILE RADAR THE F-8S WOULD BE USABLE ONLY AS JET TRAINERS. "I STRONGLY URGE THAT WASHINGTON TELL US WHAT WE SHOULD DO ABOUT THE RADAR." I REPLIED THAT I WOULD RELAY HIS QUESTION AND FURNISH A REPLY ASAP. HE SAID HE WOULD TELL ESPINO TODAY ABOUT THE SUBJECTS HE HAD COVERED WITH ME SO THAT ESPINO WILL BE FULLY BRIEFED FOR TOMORROW'S MEETING WITH HARDISTY AND POSTON.

10. COMMENT: THE PRESIDENT AT ONE POINT APPEARED TO BE MAKING OUR RESPONSE, TO WHAT I UNDERSTAND TO BE THE "MELCHOR PLAN," A PRECONDITION TO OUR MOVING AHEAD ON ALL OTHER ISSUES. SINCE THIS WAS MY FIRST MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT AND AM UNFAMILIAR WITH HIS WAY OF PRESENTING ISSUES, I CANNOT BE CATEGORIC ABOUT THE STATE OF HIS THINKING ON THIS POINT. BUT JGDING BY
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THE WAY THE CONVERSATION FLOWED, I DO NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE HE IS IN FACT IMPOSING A PRECONDITION ON OUR MILITARY-TO-MILITARY TALKS. I AM AWARE, AND I ASSUME MARCOS IS ALSO, THAT UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM AND SENATOR INOUE STRONGLY DISCOURAGED MELCHOR WHEN HE RECENTLY RAISED IN WASHINGTON THESE INDUSTRIALIZATION CONCEPTS. I ALSO RECALL THAT MELCHOR WAS AMBIGUOUS ABOUT HIS AUTHORITY IN DISCUSSING THAT QUESTION AND LEFT SOME UNCERTAINTY BEHIND AS TO WHETHER HE WAS ACTUALLY SPEAKING FOR MARCOS. IT APPEARS THAT THE ISSUE IS, HOWEVER, ON MARCOS' MIND. (WE HEAR INFORMALLY MELCHOR IS DUE BACK IN MANILA JUNE 10.) IN ANY CASE I PURPOSEFULLY REFRAINED FROM BECOMING ENTANGLED IN THE DETAILS OF THE MELCHOR PLAN AT THIS INITIAL MEETING. WE SHOULD KNOW AFTER TOMORROW'S SESSION WITH ESPINO HOW THE INDUSTRIALIZATION TOPIC WILL RELATE TO THE OTHER AGENDA ITEMS (REFTEL). MURPHY

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